



UNITED THROUGH READING®

a program of FAMILY LITERACY FOUNDATION

WHAT: *UNITED THROUGH READING® is a quality of life program that helps active duty personnel and their children stay connected during deployment through the medium of reading aloud on videotape. Active Duty participants send videotapes or DVD's and a copy of the book home (if the military member owns the book) to the child who watches and often reads along. Feedback in the form of pictures, letters, email, or videotape of the child watching the parent read is then sent back to the deployed parent. Benefits of participation in UNITED THROUGH READING (UTR) include: boosting family morale, reinforcing parental support felt by the spouse at home, easing children's fears about their parent's absence, and reducing anxiety upon their reunion.*

WHEN: During deployments or post assignments when active duty personnel are separated from their families.

WHO: UNITED THROUGH READING is available to any deployed military service member with a child in his/her life (i.e. younger sibling, grandchild, adopt-a-school, mentored student.) To date, the program has served over 101,000 military personnel and their family members.

WHERE: The UNITED THROUGH READING program is currently available for implementation DoD wide. Our goal is to expand the UTR program to provide all military service members the opportunity to realize the multiple lifetime benefits of reading aloud with children.



WHY: Reading aloud with children has been shown to be the single best predictor of a child's future academic success. It also strengthens the bond between adult and child and provides a bridge for communication and sharing. Command climate is enhanced by offering this program for all personnel to participate in throughout deployments.

UNITED THROUGH READING PROVIDES: Training Materials & Program Resources, Training to Active Duty and Homefront Coordinators, Daily Program Support throughout deployment.

"The UTR Program is without a doubt one of the top quality of life programs available to our Sailors today. This program has allowed our Sailors to maintain "family ties" with our most precious resource, our children. I have received numerous e-mails during our deployment from families thanking us for the exceptional program . . . The program is perfect in my mind." CMC, USS John F. Kennedy (CV-67)

COMMAND ROLE: Get started early! 3-4 months prior to your anticipated deployment date assign a Command Liaison POC to contact a UNITED THROUGH READING® Program Manager (UTR@read2kids.org) or call 1.858.481.7323) to request the program for your command.

Additional Command Responsibilities:

- ❖ Select an Active Duty Coordinator and Homefront Coordinator to run the program
- ❖ Supply Recording Equipment
- ❖ Report feedback at end of deployment

WEBSITE: WWW.READ2KIDS.ORG